



POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

This Policy has been reviewed and endorsed by the Principal:	November 2023
This Policies next review and endorsement is due in three - four years:	2026

PURPOSE

The school is committed to taking all reasonable steps to provide a safe environment for students, including by ensuring staff fulfill their duty of care in relation to any medication. This policy explains to parents/carers, students and staff the processes Geelong High School will follow to safely manage the provision of medication to students while at school or school activities, including camps and excursions.

Scope

This policy applies to the administration of medication to all students. It does not apply to:

- the provision of medication for anaphylaxis which is provided for in our school's Anaphylaxis Policy
- the provision of medication for asthma which is provided for in our school's Asthma Policy
- specialised procedures which may be required for complex medical care needs.

POLICY

If a student requires medication, Geelong High School encourages parents to arrange for the medication to be taken outside of school hours. However, Geelong High School understands that students may need to take medication at school or school activities. To support students to do so safely, Geelong High School will follow the procedures set out in this policy.

Authority to administer

If a student needs to take medication while at school or at a school activity:

- Parents/carers will need to arrange for the student's treating medical/health practitioner to provide written advice to the school which details:
 - the name of the medication required.
 - the dosage amounts.
 - the time the medication is to be taken.
 - how the medication is to be taken
 - the dates the medication is required, or whether it is an ongoing medication.
 - how the medication should be stored.
- In most cases, parents/carers should arrange for written advice to be provided in a Medication Authority Form (Appendix A) which a student's treating medical/health practitioner should complete.
- If advice cannot be provided by a student's medical/health practitioner, the principal (or their nominee) may agree that written authority can be provided by, or the Medication Authority Form can be completed by a student's parents/carers.
- The principal may need to consult with parents/carers to clarify written advice and consider student's individual preferences regarding medication administration (which may also be provided for in a student's Student Health Support Plan).

Parents/carers can contact Geelong High School- Student Administration for a Medication Authority Form.

Administering medication

When administering prescription medication to students, the Medication Authority Form must be consistent with the specific written instructions on the original medication (eg pharmacy label). Any medication brought to school by a student needs to be clearly labelled with:

- the student's name.
- the dosage required.
- the time the medication needs to be administered.

Parents/carers need to ensure that the medication a student has at school is within its expiry date. If school staff become aware that the medication a student has at school has expired, they will promptly contact the student's parents/carers who will need to arrange for medication within the expiry date to be provided. If necessary, Geelong High School will clarify instructions about medication from the student's parents/guardians, who may need to contact the prescribing medical/health practitioner, including by requesting general information about safe medication practices.

If a student needs to take medication at school or a school activity, the principal (or their nominee) will ensure that:

1. Medication is administered to the student in accordance with the Medication Authority Form so that:
 - the student receives their correct medication.
 - in the proper dose
 - via the correct method (for example, inhaled or orally)
 - at the correct time of day.
2. A Medication Administration Log is kept of medicine administered to a student.
3. Where possible, two staff members will supervise the administration of medication.
4. The teacher in charge of a student at the time their medication is required:
 - is informed that the student needs to receive their medication.
 - if necessary, release the student from class to obtain their medication.

Self-administration

In some cases, it may be appropriate for students to self-administer their medication. The principal may consult with parents/carers and consider advice from the student's medical/health practitioner to determine whether to allow a student to self-administer their medication.

If the principal decides to allow a student to self-administer their medication, the principal may require written acknowledgement from the student's medical/health practitioner, or the student's parents/carers that the student will self-administer their medication.

Storing medication

The principal (or their nominee) will put in place arrangements so that medication is stored:

- securely to minimise risk to others
- in a place only accessible by staff who are responsible for administering the medication
- away from a classroom (unless quick access is required)

- away from first aid kits
- according to packet instructions, particularly in relation to temperature.

For most students, Geelong High School will store student medication at the Administration Office. The principal may decide, in consultation with parents/carers and/or on the advice of a student's treating medical/health practitioner:

- that the student's medication should be stored securely in the student's classroom if quick access might be required
- to allow the student to carry their own medication with them, preferably in the original packaging if:
 - the medication does not have special storage requirements, such as refrigeration.
 - doing so does not create potentially unsafe access to the medication by other students.

Warning

Geelong High School will not:

- in accordance with Department of Education and Training policy, store or administer analgesics such as aspirin and paracetamol as a standard first aid strategy as they can mask signs and symptoms of serious illness or injury.
- allow a student to take their first dose of a new medication at school in case of an allergic reaction. This should be done under the supervision of the student's parents, carers or health practitioner.
- allow use of medication by anyone other than the prescribed student except in a life-threatening emergency, for example if a student is having an asthma attack and their own puffer is not readily available.

Medication error

If a student takes medication incorrectly, staff will endeavour to:

Step	Action
1.	If required, follow first aid procedures outlined in the student's Health Support Plan or other medical management plan.
2.	Ring the Poisons Information Line, 13 11 26 and give details of the incident and the student.
3.	Act immediately upon their advice, such as calling Triple Zero "000" if advised to do so.
4.	Contact the student's parents/carers or emergency contact person to notify them of the medication error and action taken.
5.	Review medication management procedures at the school in light of the incident.

In the case of an emergency, school staff may call Triple Zero "000" for an ambulance at any time.

COMMUNICATION

[Under the VRQA's Guidelines to the Minimum Standards for School Registration, schools are required to have *evidence* of how they communicate this policy to staff, students, parents, guardians and the school community. One way of producing this evidence is to include this Communication section in the policy. An alternative or additional method is to list all your school's policies in a spreadsheet and outline

the communication method your school uses next to each policy. You can adapt our consolidated spreadsheet of all policies for this purpose – refer to [Communicating our Policies](#).

It is important to give careful consideration as to the most effective method of ensuring your school community are aware of and understand the requirements under this policy.]

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways [please delete the options below in yellow if you do not intend to use these methods. Note that the first two methods are strongly recommended]:

- Included in staff induction processes.
- Available publicly on our school's website [or insert other online parent/carer/student communication platform]
- Included in transition and enrolment packs.
- Included as annual reference in school newsletter.
- Included in our staff handbook/manual.
- Discussed at staff briefings/meetings as required.
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions.
- Included in student diaries so that it is easily accessible to parents, carers and students.
- Discussed at student forums/through communication tools.
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- [DET Anaphalaxis Policy](#)
- [Health Care Needs](#)
- [Asthma Policy](#)
- [First Aid Policy](#)

Appendices connected with this policy are:

- **Appendix A:** Medication Authority Form
- **Appendix B:** Student Health Support Plan



Appendix A

MEDICATION AUTHORITY FORM

For students requiring medication to be administered at school

This form should, ideally, be signed by the student's medical/health practitioner for all medication to be administered at school but schools may proceed on the signed authority of parents in the absence of a signature from a medical practitioner.

- For students with asthma, [Asthma Australia's School Asthma Care Plan](#)
- For students with anaphylaxis, an [ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis](#)

Please only complete the sections below that are relevant to the student's health support needs. If additional advice is required, please attach it to this form.

Please note: wherever possible, medication should be scheduled outside school hours, eg medication required three times daily is generally not required during a school day – it can be taken before and after school and before bed.

Student Details

Name of school: **GEELONG HIGH SCHOOL**

Name of student: _____ Date of Birth: _____

MedicAlert Number (if relevant): _____

Review date for this form: _____

Medication to be administered at school:

Name of Medication	Dosage (amount)	Time/s to be taken	How is it to be taken? eg: oral topical injection	Dates to be administered	Supervision required
				Start: / / End: / / OR <input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing medication	<input type="checkbox"/> No – student self-managing <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> remind <input type="checkbox"/> observe <input type="checkbox"/> assist <input type="checkbox"/> administer
				Start: / / End: / / OR <input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing medication	<input type="checkbox"/> No – student self-managing <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> remind <input type="checkbox"/> observe <input type="checkbox"/> assist <input type="checkbox"/> administer

Medication delivered to the school

Please indicate if there are any specific storage instructions for any medication:

Medication delivered to the school

Please ensure that medication delivered to the school:

- Is in its original package
- The pharmacy label matches the information included in this form

Supervision required

Students in the early years will generally need supervision of their medication and other aspects of health care management. In line with their age and stage of development and capabilities, older students can take responsibility for their own health care. Self-management should be agreed to by the student and their parents/carers, the school and the student’s medical/health practitioner.

Please describe what supervision or assistance is required by the student when taking medication at school (e.g. remind, observe, assist or administer):

Monitoring effects of medication

Please note: School staff **do not** monitor the effects of medication and will seek emergency medical assistance if concerned about a student’s behaviour following medication.

Privacy Statement

We collect personal and health information to plan for and support the health care needs of our students. Information collected will be used and disclosed in accordance with the Department of Education and Training’s privacy policy which applies to all government schools (available at: <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/Pages/schoolsprivacypolicy.aspx>) and the law.

Authorisation to administer medication in accordance with this form:

Name of parent/carer: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name of medical/health practitioner: _____

Professional role: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Contact details: _____

Appendix B

STUDENT HEALTH SUPPORT PLAN - Cover Sheet

- This plan outlines how the school will support the student's health care needs, based on health advice received from the student's medical/health practitioner. This form must be completed for each student with an identified health care need (not including those with Anaphylaxis as this is done via an Individual Anaphylaxis Management Plan – see <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/health/Pages/anaphylaxisschl.aspx>).
- **This Plan is to be completed by the principal or nominee in collaboration with the parent/carer and student.**

School: GEELONG HIGH SCHOOL		Phone:
Student's name:		Date of birth:
Year level:		Proposed date for review of this Plan:
Parent/carer contact information (1)	Parent/carer contact information (2)	Other emergency contacts (if parent/carer not available)
Name:	Name:	Name:
Relationship:	Relationship:	Relationship:
Home phone:	Home phone:	Home phone:
Work phone:	Work phone:	Work phone:
Mobile:	Mobile:	Mobile:
Address:	Address:	Address:

Medical /Health practitioner contact:

Ideally, this plan should be developed based on health advice received via the appropriate Departmental Medical Advice form or in case of asthma, the Asthma Foundation's *School Asthma Action Plan*. Please tick the appropriate form which has been completed and attach to this Plan. All forms are available from the [Health Support Planning Forms – School Policy and Advisory Guide](#)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Medical Advice Form - for a student with a health condition | <input type="checkbox"/> Condition Specific Medical Advice Form – Epilepsy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> School Asthma Action Plan | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Care Medical Advice Form - for a student who requires support for transfers and positioning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Condition Specific Medical Advice Form – Cystic Fibrosis | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Care Medical Advice Form - for a student who requires support for oral eating and drinking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Condition Specific Medical Advice Form – Acquired Brain Injury | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Care Medical Advice Form - for a student who requires support for continence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Condition Specific Medical Advice Form – Cancer | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Condition Specific Medical Advice Form – Diabetes | |

List who will receive copies of this *Student Health Support Plan*:

1. Student's Family 2. Other: _____ 3. Other: _____

The following *Student Health Support Plan* has been developed with my knowledge and input

Name of parent/carer or adult/mature minor**

student: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

**Please note: Mature minor is a student who is capable of making their own decisions on a range of issues, before they reach eighteen years of age. (See: [Decision Making Responsibility for Students - School Policy and Advisory Guide](#)).

Name of principal (or nominee): : _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Privacy Statement

The school collects personal information so as the school can plan and support the health care needs of the student. Without the provision of this information the quality of the health support provided may be affected. The information may be disclosed to relevant school staff and appropriate medical personnel, including those engaged in providing health support as well as emergency personnel, where appropriate, or where authorised or required by another law. You are able to request access to the personal information that we hold about you/your child and to request that it be corrected. Please contact the school directly or FOI Unit on 03 9637 2670.

How the school will support the student's health care needs

Student's name:	
Date of birth:	Year level:
What is the health care need identified by the student's medical/health practitioner?	
Other known health conditions:	
When will the student commence attending school?	
Detail any actions and timelines to enable attendance and any interim provisions:	

Below are some questions that may need to be considered when detailing the support that will be provided for the student's health care needs. These questions should be used as a guide only.

Support	What needs to be considered?	Strategy – how will the school support the student's health care needs?	Person Responsible for ensuring the support
Overall Support	Is it necessary to provide the support during the school day?	<i>For example, some medication can be taken at home and does not need to be brought to the school.</i>	
	How can the recommended support be provided in the simplest manner, with minimal interruption to the student's learning?	<i>For example, students using nebulisers can often learn to use puffers and spacers at school.</i>	
	Who should provide the support?	<p><i>For example, the principal, should conduct a risk assessment for staff and ask:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Does the support fit with assigned staff duties and basic first aid training (see the Department First Aid Policy www.education.vic.gov.au/hrweb/ohs/health/firstaid.htm)</i> - <i>If so, can it be accommodated within current resources?</i> - <i>If not, are there additional training modules available</i> 	
	How can the support be provided in a way that respects dignity, privacy, comfort and safety and enhances learning?	<i>For example, detail the steps taken to ensure that the support provided respects the students, dignity, privacy, comfort and safety and enhances learning.</i>	

First Aid	Does the medical/health information highlight any individual first aid requirements for the student, other than basic first aid?	<i>Discuss and agree on the individual first aid plan with the parent/carer. Ensure that there are sufficient staff trained in basic first aid (see the Department's First Aid Policy www.education.vic.gov.au/hrweb/ohs/health/firstaid.htm) Ensure that all relevant school staff are informed about the first aid response for the student</i>	
Support	What needs to be considered?	Strategy – how will the school support the student's health care needs?	Person Responsible for ensuring the support
First Aid, cont'd	Does the school require relevant staff to undertake additional training modules not covered under basic first aid training, such as staff involved with excursions and specific educational programs or activities	<i>Ensure that relevant staff undertake the agreed additional training Ensure that there are interim provisions in place (whilst awaiting the staff member to receive training), to ensure the student's attendance at school.</i>	
Complex/ Invasive health care needs	Does the student have a complex medical care need?	<i>Is specific training required by relevant school staff to meet the student's complex medical care need? Can the training be obtained through the Department funded Schoolcare Program? If so, the School should complete the relevant referral forms which can be accessed by contacting the Royal Children's Hospital's Home and Community Care on 9345 6548.</i>	
Routine Supervision for health-related safety	Does the student require medication to be administered and/or stored at the School?	<i>Ensure that the parent/carer is aware of the School's policy on medication management. Ensure that written advice is received, ideally from the student's medical/health practitioner for appropriate storage and administration of the medication – via the Department's Medication Authority Form Ensure that a medication log or equivalent</i>	
	Are there any facilities issues that need to be addressed?	<i>Ensure the schools first aid room/sick bay and its contents provide the minimum requirements and discuss and agree if other requirements are needed in this room to meet the student's health care needs. Ensure the school provides sufficient facilities to assist a student who requires a wheelchair or other technical support. Discuss this with the parent/carer/student</i>	

	Does the student require assistance by a visiting nurse, physiotherapist, or other health worker?	<i>Detail who the worker is, the contact staff member and how, when and where they will provide support.</i> <i>Ensure that the school provides a facility</i>	
	Who is responsible for management of health records at the school?	<i>Ensure that information privacy principles are applied when collecting, using, retaining or disposing of personal or health information.</i>	
	Where relevant, what steps have been put in place to support continuity and relevance of curriculum for the student?	<i>For example, accommodation in curriculum design and delivery and in assessment for a student in transition between home, hospital and school; for a student attending part-time or episodically.</i>	
Personal Care	Does the medical/health information highlight a predictable need for additional support with daily living tasks?	<i>Detail how the school will support the student's personal care needs, for example in relation to nose blowing, washing hands, continence care</i>	
Support	What needs to be considered?	Strategy – how will the school support the student's health care needs?	Person Responsible for ensuring the support
Other considerations	Are there other considerations relevant for this health support plan?	<i>For example, in relation to behaviour, such as special permission to leave group activities as needed; planned, supportive peer environment.</i> <i>For example, in relation to the environment, such as minimising risks such as allergens or other risk factors.</i> <i>For example, in relation to communication, is there a need to formally outline the communication channels between the school, family and health/medical practitioner?</i> <i>For example, is there a need for planned support for siblings/peers?</i>	